

1. (Twice amended) A process for stabilizing the pH of a pulp suspension at a desired pH level, characterized by increasing the alkalinity of said paper making pulp suspension by adding thereto in the stock preparation of a paper machine a combination of an alkali metal hydroxide feed and a carbon dioxide feed, each of said feeds being added in an amount greater than what would be required to only adjust the pH of the suspension to the desired pH level, which feeds substantially counter each other's pH changing effect, said feeds being provided in an amount sufficient to achieve a significant buffering effect of said pulp suspension while enabling utilization of an excess of said hydroxide or said carbon dioxide for adjusting the pH of said pulp suspension and maintaining the pH at a desired level from the addition of the feeds through the formation of the paper on the paper machine.

Please add new claim 13 as follows:

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13. (New) A process for stabilizing the pH of a pulp suspension at a desired pH level, comprising the steps of

providing a paper making pulp suspension having an initial pH in the stock preparation of a paper machine;

adding alkali metal hydroxide to the pulp suspension in a first amount sufficient to adjust the pulp suspension to the desired pH if the initial pH is lower than the desired pH;

adding carbon dioxide to the pulp suspension in a second amount sufficient to adjust the pulp suspension to the desired pH if the initial pH is higher than the desired pH;

adding alkali metal hydroxide to the pulp suspension in a third amount; and

adding carbon dioxide to the pulp suspension in a fourth amount,

the third amount of metal hydroxide and the fourth amount of carbon dioxide being provided in quantities to substantially counter each other's pH changing effect and to achieve a significant buffering effect of the pulp suspension such that the pH of the suspension is maintained at substantially the desired pH level from the last addition of alkali metal hydroxide and carbon dioxide to the formation of the pulp suspension into a web.